

City of Highmore

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April 21, 2009

Honorable Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin,

Last July at our district planning meeting, (South Dakota Central Enhancement District), I learned that once again the grading, surfacing, & curb & gutter project, on the mile of highway 47 through Highmore has once again been set back on the DOT (Department of Transportation) five-year plan, it was taken off their plans because of budget restraints. I have attended the region DOT meeting in Pierre. I expressed frustration and concerns that this project is continually set back. The plan was to grade, resurface, and add storm sewers and curb and gutter and very importantly sidewalks along the mile route through Highmore. At the DOT meeting I was told to get written testimonies from the community, as those will go in written record and the DOT will take into account the community's concerns and input. I did present these letters, to the DOT, which is for support for this project. We have had a major business in our community damaged severely by water because of no drainage. The DOT has these letters, pictures and insurance claims and damage costs. Water sits around this property and drains onto one of our roads and causes a continual nuisance.

I'm concerned about the safety of our children; our school is located on Highway 47; our pool/park area is the hub of activity for children in the summer; all located on highway 47. Our children and citizens have no side walks, no safe area to get to the school, pool, the park, or even to go to the ball park if they are coming from the south or east side of town. We have two grain elevators that have truck after truck coming and going from the south end of town and back through. One elevator alone dumped 9000 loads last year with growth projected to 10,000 loads. This is only counting them one way! We have recreational traffic going to the Missouri river/Lake Sharp area on highway 47 through town. The DOT is well aware of our concerns, but again because of budget shortfalls have put the project back year after year, and now as of 2008 has taken the highway 47 project off the list.

I believe for the safety of our children and for the largest business in our rural town, we need to have the highway 47 project completed.

Any help in this area would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vikki M. Day".

Vikki Day
Mayor of Highmore